

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: A) USNATO 3378 (DTG 031722Z APR 78)
B) MADRID 2902 (DTG 161451Z MAR 78)
C) LISBON 2523 (DTG 051017Z APR 78)
D) USNATO 1737 (DTG 201503Z FEB 78) NOTAL
E) MADRID 4222 (DTG 200836Z APR 78)

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH GENERAL APPROACH OUTLINED
IN REF (A) FOR FOSTERING CLOSER CONTACTS BETWEEN SPAIN
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ON ONE HAND AND NATO AND THE SEPARATE ALLIES ON THE
OTHER.

2. IN BRIEFING ALLIES (PARA 5 REF A) IN GENERAL TERMS
ABOUT US EFFORTS THROUGH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO BE
RESPONSIVE TO SPANISH INTEREST IN NATO, USNATO MAY
DRAW ORALLY ON REF (B) IN AN APPROPRIATE FORUM. WE SEE

NO OVERRIDING REASON, HOWEVER, TO LIMIT EXPANDED BRIEFING TO SELECTED ALLIES AS REF(A) SUGGESTS. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH ALLIES LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT ALL ALLIES NOW SHARE OUR GENERAL INTEREST IN SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO, THOUGH WE WOULD EXPECT SOME ALLIES TO TAKE A MORE PASSIVE ROLE THAN OTHERS.

3. WE BELIEVE APPROACH OUTLINED IN REF (A) SHOULD SERVE UNTIL SPANISH ARE READY TO DISCUSS ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTLY WITH NATO AND OTHER ALLIES AND SO LONG AS CURRENT GOS ATTITUDES OBTAIN. IT REMAINS US POLICY TO ENCOURAGE SPAIN TO DISCUSS ITS INTEREST IN ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTLY WITH NATO OFFICERS AND OTHER ALLIES SO THAT THE US CAN REDUCE ITS ROLE AS MIDDLEMAN AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

4. WE ALSO BELIEVE A SPECIAL BILATERAL BRIEFING OF THE PORTUGUESE WOULD GIVE UNDUE WEIGHT TO PORTUGUESE CONCERNS AND FEED LISBON'S SUSPICIONS THAT PORTUGAL'S NATO ROLE WOULD DECLINE. IF SPAIN MOVES TOWARD NATO MEMBERSHIP. POINTS IN PARA 6 CAN BEST BE MADE IN A LOW-KEY MANNER AT NATO BY US AND OTHER ALLIES IN COURSE OF NORMAL CONTACTS WITH PORTUGUESE.

5. IN ENCOURAGING ALLIES TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS THEY CAN TO INDICATIONS OF SPANISH INTEREST IN NATO,
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WE SHOULD SEEK TO ENLIST THEIR AID IN DISSUADING SPANISH FROM CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINING NATO UNDER ANY CONDITIONS OTHER THAN FULL PARTICIPATION IN ALL NATO ACTIVITIES. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT PERMITTING A NEW MEMBER TO JOIN ON A SELECTIVE BASIS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO COMMON ACTION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

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